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Assistance in mine action

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Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

This report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 56/219 of 21 December 2001. It focuses on progress achieved in implementing the six strategic goals and related objectives outlined in the United Nations Mine Action Strategy for 2001-2005 (A/56/448/Add.1).

Progress has been achieved in the following areas:

(a) Production of information related to mine-action problems; inter-agency assessment missions to mine-affected countries; development of reporting templates for field programmes and enhancement of E-Mine, a web-based information network (Strategic Goal One);

(b) Development of a rapid response plan to meet mine-action requirements in emergencies and the conduct of mine-action programmes in United Nations-mandated operations (Strategic Goal Two);

(c) Response to requests from national Governments and efforts to build local mine-action capacities (Strategic Goal Three);

(d) Further development and application of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) to ensure safe and cost-effective mine-action operations; completion of three independent evaluations of mine-action programmes (Strategic Goal Four);

(e) Integration of mine-action concerns into the wider humanitarian and development agendas (Strategic Goal Five);

* The need to request and incorporate input from a variety of organizations within and outside the United Nations system has delayed the finalization of this report. With regard to future report submissions, steps will be taken to ensure that delays are minimized.

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(f) Continued advocacy in support of the universalization and implementation of two international conventions: the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine Ban Convention) and the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons). Six new members ratified or acceded to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention and support continued for work on explosive remnants of war and anti-vehicle mines in the context of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (Strategic Goal Six).

The report recommends specific action to ensure improved quality of mine-action work by the United Nations.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/219 of 21 December 2001, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at the fifty-seventh session a report on the progress achieved in mine-action assistance, including by international and regional organizations and national programmes active in this field.

II. Actions undertaken in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 56/219

2. In paragraph 11 of resolution 56/219, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the mine action strategy for 2001-2005 submitted by the Secretary-General with his annual report on assistance in mine action (A/56/448/Add.1) and requested him to optimize the strategy by seeking and taking into account the views of Member States. In response to that request, in a note verbale dated 3 May 2002, all Member States and observer States were invited to present their views on the strategy and on ways to optimize it. In addition, interested delegations were briefed at an open meeting on 6 September 2002.

3. The note verbale received 13 responses: from Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Japan, Poland, Qatar, Switzerland and Tunisia. Overall, the feedback was positive with regard to the United Nations strategy. Member States strongly supported, in particular, the coordinating role of the United Nations in the fight against landmines and clearly called for effective partnerships.

4. Member States also suggested ways to optimize the strategy. In this regard, the United Nations is ready to start implementing suggestions immediately in five broad areas: cooperation and coordination, integration and prioritization, scope of mine action, political commitment, and information-sharing. Other suggestions will be discussed in the context of the comprehensive review of the strategy planned for 2003.

5. Several proposals were made to improve cooperation and coordination. While it was generally agreed that the United Nations entities involved in mine action should rely on local institutions and NGOs to implement mine-clearance tasks, questions were raised with regard to civilian-military cooperation and whether local capacity-building should be invested in local military or civilian institutions. The appropriate role of the military in mine action is the subject of a study currently being conducted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), at the request of the United Nations. The United Nations will endeavour to put into practice the request for greater emphasis on cooperation and coordination at the regional, and even subregional, levels.

6. Integration and prioritization are other central themes in the responses from Member States, which requested that mine-action strategies and activities be designed and implemented in the broader context of humanitarian and development aid. While Member States do not necessarily agree on what the priorities should be, they do concur that they should be defined in a clear and balanced way. The United Nations agrees with the view that "the development imperative" should be included

alongside the humanitarian imperative as one of the principles upon which United Nations mine action is based, and that the five basic areas of work identified in the strategy should be addressed in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner.

7. Member States generally underlined the importance of political commitment in the fight against landmines, but did not reach consensus on the form this commitment should take. While some suggested that ratification of the Mine Ban Convention could be the precondition to benefiting from humanitarian mine-action activities, the importance of compliance with the Landmine Protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons was also emphasized. In implementing its mine action strategy, the United Nations will call for the universalization of all international legal instruments dealing with landmines, and for the timely submission of reports required therein.

8. Member States continued to expect the United Nations to collect and make available more information. The current status of activities in each mine-affected country, including the rate of mine clearance, diffusion of awareness programmes and delivery of mine victim assistance, was requested by one State. Emphasis was also placed upon the need to gather information on lessons learned by mine-affected countries with long mine-action experience to help other mine-affected countries build their own capacities. During the strategy period, the United Nations will work with its partners, GICHD in particular, to improve existing information management tools and information-sharing mechanisms.

III. Progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy for 2001-2005 over the past year

Strategic Goal One — Information is produced and made available to all to understand and address mine-action problems

9. Several missions were conducted to respond to the needs of affected countries (objective 1.1). In March 2002, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) conducted an inter-agency assessment in Sudan, resulting in the rapid development of an emergency country mine-action programme. In April 2002, UNMAS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF conducted a joint mission to Mauritania. Discussions with national authorities are currently under way on options for a country mine-action programme. UNDP and UNICEF participated in the Sri Lanka inter-agency assessment mission in April 2002, leading to a significant expansion of their mine-action programmes.

10. In April 2002, UNICEF and UNMAS conducted an assessment of the explosive ordnance problem in the Occupied Palestinian Territories at the request of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and UNMAS deployed a technical mission, in June 2002, to Cyprus in response to a request of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to assess the requirements for clearance of the Greek Cypriot minefields within the United Nations-administered buffer zone. It was not possible in all cases to meet the strategy's four-month target timeline between the receipt of a

request for an assessment mission and the completion of the report. This was due to political events and logistical difficulties related to planning and fielding inter-agency missions. When such delays occur, efforts are made to keep the requesting Government regularly informed.

11. Launched in September 2001, the web-based electronic mine information network E-Mine is being continuously developed as a key information tool (objective 1.2). E-Mine is a public and freely accessible web site (www.mineaction.org) designed to support the planning and coordination of global mine-action activities. E-Mine contains electronic links to other mine-action web sites, including that of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, that handles reports from States parties in accordance with article 7 of the Mine Ban Convention. E-Mine also contains information on mine-action needs and investments, the progress of mine-action programmes, the status of stockpile destruction programmes, the location of mined areas and other relevant matters. A specific E-Mine web page is dedicated to information on technology, research and development initiatives. Plans for E-Mine in 2003 include the further development of the mine-action investments database to provide information on worldwide resources available for mine action.

12. In cooperation with GICHD, a new reporting template is being developed to enable the semi-automatic generation of reports from field programmes through the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and their circulation through E-Mine.

13. To facilitate information-sharing on the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, the "Stockpile Destruction Resource" web site, initially developed by the Government of Canada, has now been integrated into E-Mine (objective 1.3).

14. Significant progress has been made in the development of IMSMA by GICHD; it is currently deployed in some 26 field programmes, and versions of IMSMA are being utilized at training sites in France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. IMSMA version 3.0 will be available in November 2002. A notable addition is the mine-risk education module, designed by GICHD in close consultation with UNICEF and field users (objective 1.4).

15. The United Nations commissioned a study, in cooperation with the GICHD, to identify the information requirements of mine-action programmes at the country level and to recommend priorities for further development of mine-action information management systems.[1] The primary need expressed at all levels by mine-action programme staff was for further training. The final report of the study contains 38 recommendations regarding, in particular, training requirements, new functionalities and procurement of standard off-the-shelf finance, procurement and human resources packages. Implementing these recommendations will be an important task for the United Nations and its parties in 2003.

Strategic Goal Two — Rapid response capability is in place to meet mine-action requirements in emergency response

16. A Rapid Response plan for mine action has been developed (objective 2.1) in consultation with agencies of the United Nations system and mine-action NGOs. The plan will take into account the experience of the Office for Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF in the field of emergency response, particularly with regard to the management of standby emergency rosters, emergency training and contingency planning and response. In addition, several Member States have offered the services of their relevant governmental bodies to support the rapid response plan. A plan to address threat monitoring and contingency planning requirements is also being developed for integration into the broader plan (objective 2.2).

17. To respond to growing demands for technical expertise and support, the UNICEF Office of Emergency Operations has established a mine-risk education field support capacity within its headquarters. When necessary, this capacity is supplemented by the deployment of experienced "flying team" consultants. These consultants can be deployed on short notice for country programme capacity-building and emergency response. Since April 2001, this capacity has been deployed to 11 countries.

18. As an example of the integration of emergency requirements into existing mechanisms, the mine-action strategy for Angola is being developed with information from the provincial Emergency Plans for Resettlement and Return. UNDP will use this information to develop a mine-action response plan, in line with the planned programmes for refugee return, food security and other humanitarian requirements.

19. In consultation with the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Disarmament Affairs and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNMAS is also developing draft guidelines on suitable language for inclusion in ceasefire agreements, peace treaties and humanitarian access (objective 2.3). All concerned parties are expected to adopt appropriate guidelines by the end of 2002.

20. The Survey Working Group, an informal grouping of non-governmental organizations and agencies of the United Nations system involved in landmine impact surveys, has been working on formalizing a protocol for the implementation of rapid surveys. The question of the integration of such surveys within broader public health surveillance systems has been raised for future consideration by the Working Group. UNICEF has signed an agreement with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to jointly run two field epidemiology for mine action courses (FEMACs) for United Nations and national authority mine-action personnel in 2003 (objective 2.4).

21. UNMAS continued its programme, executed with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in the Temporary Security Zone between Eritrea and Ethiopia and adjacent areas (objective 2.5), where the Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) in the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) has been responsible for coordinating mine-action activities. UNICEF supported mine-risk education in collaboration with the Mine Awareness Trust. UNDP provides capacity-building advice to the Eritrean and Ethiopian Governments and technical working groups were established to improve coordination and technical standardization. The productivity of the mine-action programme increased significantly, as the clearance teams became more familiar with the conditions and additional equipment and specialist capabilities were added. Both mine/UXO clearance rates and mine-awareness training outputs have been impressive for such a

new programme. As of 1 September 2002, the programme is in abeyance pending agreement on the method of cooperation with the new Eritrean Demining Authority.

22. The United Nations Emergency Mine Action Programme in Sudan commenced in March 2002. Coordination offices have been set up in Khartoum, where the UNICEF Mine Risk Education Adviser will also be located, in the Nuba mountains and in Rumbek. Emergency mine-clearance work in the Nuba mountains has been facilitated by the Programme. The Programme will work in close collaboration with the mine-action initiatives of the European Union.

23. United Nations MACC has also been established in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assist the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in implementing urgent survey and mine-clearance operations within suspected areas that present a threat for further deployment. One of the objectives is to provide United Nations personnel and aid workers with safety training against landmines and unexploded ordnance.

24. A generous contribution from the United Arab Emirates is funding the MACC support for the Operation Emirates Solidarity programme in southern Lebanon. This contribution enables UNMAS and UNOPS to provide technical assistance to both Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates. UNICEF is providing mine-risk education support in Lebanon with funding from its National Committees in the United Kingdom and the United States. Over 40 villages have received assistance, 1.4 million square metres of land has been cleared and over 9,000 mines and UXOs destroyed.

25. The United Nations is assisting the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in mobilizing international support to clear contaminated villages in the border areas. UNICEF has participated in the initial joint assessment and planning phases of the response. Seventeen villages have been cleared and 7,350 mines and UXOs have been destroyed in the review period.

26. The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) has faced unprecedented challenges in the past year. Following the establishment of a new United Nations mission, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UNMAS agreed, in April 2002, that UNMAS, with support from UNOPS, should assume responsibility for MAPA as of 1 June 2002. Mine action has been established as a separate sector and programme secretariat, within the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), under the auspices of Pillar 2: Relief, Reconstruction and Recovery. MAPA recovered rapidly from the loss of equipment and facilities following airstrikes by the coalition forces, looting and battle damage and expanded its operations. The donor community reacted quickly with contributions, enabling the procurement of protective equipment for deminers, metal detectors, vehicles and communications equipment to allow a return to safe and effective operations. As of 1 August 2002, MAPA had over 6,000 Afghan personnel and 150 mine detection dogs and was expanding from 19 to 27 mechanical teams. Expert personnel were also rapidly deployed to train staff and implement procedures to deal with the new threats posed by unexploded cluster bombs and dispersed ammunition. The challenge faced by MAPA remains daunting: data indicate that mine and UXO contamination affects 31 of the 32 provinces (1,585 villages). MAPA estimates that, if current levels of programme funding are maintained, as many as 360 square kilometres of high-priority mined land can be cleared within the next seven years, allowing most Afghans to resume a normal,

productive life. During the first quarter of 2002, almost 24 million square metres of high-priority area were cleared. UNICEF and UNDP are also actively supporting mine action through provision of personnel and support within the Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan for activities such as the Landmine Impact Survey, mine-risk education, mine victim surveillance, management training and other capacity-building activities. Fifteen national and international non-governmental organizations are contributing to the programme.

27. In December 2001, the United Nations significantly reduced its support to the mine-action programme in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. UNMAS retains responsibility for oversight of the residual programme, in cooperation with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. This is the first time that a United Nations humanitarian mine-action programme has been completed to such an extent.

28. UNOPS continued to provide management, technical, procurement, contractual and other administrative support to UNMAS field programmes. An agreement has been reached regarding the implementation of mine-action components of peacekeeping missions whereby UNOPS is responsible for the execution of the portions of mission budgets relating to mine-action programmes in UNMEE, in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and in MONUC.

Strategic Goal Three — National and local capacities are in place to plan, coordinate and implement mine-action programmes

29. For the majority of affected countries, the task of reducing the humanitarian, social and economic impact of mines and UXO falls to the national and local authorities. The third strategic goal of the United Nations strategy focuses on activities that strengthen capacity in this regard. UNDP, as the United Nations focal point for building national capacities for mine action as well as for addressing the socio-economic impact of mines and UXO, is the lead agency for most of the objectives under this goal. UNDP provides support to 20 countries, with projects usually executed by UNOPS and with the support of UNICEF. In all of these countries the national authorities are eager to be part of the solution, yet lack some of the technical tools to do so effectively.

30. Mine-action activities should be integrated into overall national development and reconstruction plans, and their costs factored into reconstruction budgets. For this to occur, national mine-action plans must be developed by governments, as has been done this year by Azerbaijan, Cambodia and Laos, among others, and linked to national development plans. Partnership with other development agencies is crucial. For example, UNDP and the World Bank have established collaborative projects in Ethiopia and Sri Lanka. The expansion of this relationship and its extension to other major development institutions are important goals for the coming year (objective 3.1).

31. One important lesson from past experience is that it is never too early to begin long-term planning. Therefore, in countries such as Afghanistan, Eritrea or Lebanon where a peace mission is present and UNMAS has been requested to coordinate mine action, UNDP has begun working simultaneously with national authorities on establishing the basis for a long-term, sustainable programme by providing technical advice and management training for key staff, and by implementing landmine impact surveys.

32. Successful government management of these programmes underpins goal three of the United Nations strategy. For those countries receiving support from UNDP, the Project Document, developed in conjunction with government partners, should lay out clearly plans for the transition from one phase of a project to the next. Ultimately, it should culminate in an exit strategy. A review of UNDP mine-action project documents revealed that, although some countries have accomplished this successfully, others require further refinement. Guidelines are therefore being developed to fulfil the objective related to the development of transition and exit strategies (objective 3.2). Completing this effort will require more time than originally anticipated.

33. The UNDP Mine Action Team in the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery focuses on developing indigenous capacities to manage integrated mine-action programmes at both national and local levels, and on strengthening a national focus on the socio-economic impact of mines and UXOs. UNDP provides varying degrees of technical advice and capacity-building support in the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Croatia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mozambique, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ukraine and Yemen.

34. In partnership with Cranfield University (United Kingdom), UNDP has established a series of mine-action management courses for senior and middle-level managers. During the reporting period, over 100 senior and middle-level managers from more than 20 mine-affected countries participated in the courses. UNICEF and Cranfield are currently designing a mine-risk education programme managers course, to be piloted in 2003 (objective 3.5). To complement the momentum generated during these training courses, a Mine Action Exchange programme was initiated in 2002 to provide a mechanism for senior staff of mine-action programmes to undertake short assignments to other programmes or with an international mine-action organization. The purpose of the programme is to develop and strengthen links between mine-action programmes and to share experiences and lessons learned (objective 3.7).

35. The methodology for the landmine impact survey, developed by the Survey Action Centre, reflects a change in emphasis away from statistics about mines and towards the impact of mines on people's lives. "A Study of Socio-Economic Approaches to Mine Action", produced by UNDP and GICHD released in May 2001, applied the techniques of cost-benefit analysis and socio-economic study to mine action and demonstrated that, with proper prioritization, mine action can be cost-effective. An operational handbook for mine-action managers intended to help them with the practical application of these tools and to improve the basis on which priorities are set was published in May 2002. UNDP and its partners, primarily the Survey Action Center in Washington, D.C., raised resources during 2002 to implement surveys in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. In Lebanon, the Mines Advisory Group is implementing another landmine impact survey. UNMAS funds quality assurance monitors for all landmine impact surveys to ensure adherence to the agreed protocols (objective 3.3).

36. During the reporting period, surveys were completed in Cambodia, Chad, Mozambique and Thailand. Once a survey is finished, the challenge is for Governments to make the most effective use of the vast amount of data and develop

an impact-based national plan that reflects community participation in the survey (objective 3.4). Together with Cranfield University and the Survey Action Centre, UNDP works with Governments to implement "survey integration projects" which have now been integrated into the survey process itself. The first project was successfully carried out in Yemen in 2001 and a national plan developed. During the reporting period, the Governments of eight additional countries requested assistance for similar projects. UNDP is assisting in both resource mobilization and implementation of these projects.

37. The development of a policy to support professional retraining and employment of landmine survivors (objective 3.6) is being woven into the overall mine-action victim assistance policy currently being formulated in consultation with victim assistance partners. This policy will build upon the results of a GICHD study on the operational role of mine action in victim assistance.

Strategic Goal Four — Mine action operations are implemented in a safe and cost-effective manner

38. The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), produced for the United Nations by GICHD, were made available in October 2001. The standards comply with a number of international regulations and conventions, particularly the Mine Ban Convention and Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. They will progressively cover previously unaddressed areas such as mine-risk education, mechanical clearance and mine dog detection (objective 4.1). The IMAS Review Board work plan requires the review of one third of the IMAS each year.

39. UNICEF has worked with a broad range of partners to incorporate mine-risk education into IMAS. The IMAS Guide to the Management of Mine Risk Education Programmes will be issued towards the end of 2002, with further mine-risk education components to follow in 2003. In parallel, UNICEF is developing a set of IMAS manuals, intended as simple, user-friendly guides for the design and implementation of mine-risk education in different contexts (objective 4.2).

40. IMAS are widely used as the basis for developing national standards, and dissemination and assistance in their application in mine-affected countries continues. Work has begun in several countries, including Cambodia, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Mozambique, to establish national mine action standards based on IMAS (objective 4.3). The translation of an extended glossary, including IMAS 4.10, "Glossary of mine action terms and definitions", and IMAS 1.10, "Application of IMAS", into all United Nations official languages is expected to be completed by the end of 2002. A translation of the extended glossary will also be produced in those languages used in several programmes, which are not official languages of the United Nations, such as Portuguese. Other parts of IMAS will be translated into languages used in mine-affected countries, as required by national programme directors and subject to the availability of funds.

41. Independent evaluations of mine-action programmes have been undertaken in 2001 and 2002 in Croatia, Yemen and Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In Croatia, the evaluators concluded that the national programme was solidly established and that UNDP capacity-building support could probably be phased out within 12 months. In Yemen, the evaluators concluded that the national programme

was well-placed to build upon the results achieved. A study, "Willing to Listen: an evaluation of the United Nations Mine Action Programme in Kosovo 1999-2001", concluded that the Kosovo mine-action programme had pioneered approaches that deserve in-depth examination (objective 4.4).

42. UNICEF sent a monitoring and evaluation specialist to Sri Lanka and Afghanistan in 2002 to assist in the revision of the mine-risk education programmes by building in indicators at the outset, to enable ongoing monitoring and subsequent evaluation. UNICEF is currently completing a landmines lessons learned study (objective 4.5).

Strategic Goal Five — Adequate resources for mine action are mobilized and their use is effectively coordinated

43. Coordination between the United Nations and donors, through the Mine Action Support Group in New York, has continued under the chairmanship of Belgium. A notable initiative of the group has been the organization of visits to mine-affected countries for donor representatives to gain direct insights into the work of individual programmes. Three such visits have taken place, to Eritrea, Ethiopia and Afghanistan (objective 5.1 and 5.3).

44. Coordination within the United Nations system has been conducted in the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, which met more than a dozen times. Its membership comprises UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Department for Disarmament Affairs, UNOPS, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR, WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group provides a forum to prioritize future activities, discuss ongoing operations and identify unmet needs. Interaction with the wider humanitarian and development communities has been further strengthened through closer links between the Coordination Group and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Group.

45. The work of the Steering Committee on Mine Action has been revitalized. In addition to the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, the Steering Committee includes ICRC, GICHD, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and a number of international NGOs. In 2002, the Steering Committee met in February to discuss Afghanistan and the rapid response plan, and in May to discuss Angola and Sri Lanka and the need to involve non-State actors in the mine-ban process. The Mine Risk Education Working Group, convened by UNICEF and ICBL, meets three times a year and is linked to the Steering Committee on Mine Action (objective 5.2).

46. Since the great majority of mine-action activities continue to be funded from voluntary contributions, resource mobilization is an essential activity for the United Nations system. Over US$ 28 million was received between January 2001 and August 2002 by the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. These moneys, provided by 23 donor Governments and the European Commission, have been used in 16 mine-affected countries. UNDP administers mine-action trust funds in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cambodia, and the Lao People's Democratic

Republic. The Mine Action Team at Headquarters also receives contributions through the UNDP Trust Fund for Crisis, Post-Conflict and Recovery Situations.

47. The Mine Action Investments Database tracks donor contributions to mine-action activities worldwide. Seventeen donors have submitted data to the system. Overall, mine-action investments decreased slightly between 2000 and 2001, even though major donors, such as the European Commission, continue to maintain and even increase their level of assistance. The ongoing shortfall in meeting funding requirements is therefore a critical concern, especially as the number and scope of operations continues to increase (objective 5.5).

48. The United Nations keeps the donor community abreast of the funding situation through the Portfolio of Mine-related Projects. In 2002, the portfolio was enhanced through the creation of a web-based interactive database of projects. The database can also manage projects from operators outside the United Nations system, such as the ICBL/Landmine Survivors Network's victim-assistance portfolio (objective 5.6). Increasingly, the projects within the portfolio are being integrated into the consolidated appeal process. Starting in November 2002, the consolidated appeal process and the mine-action portfolio will be issued concurrently (objective 5.4).

Strategic Goal Six — International instruments that address the mine/unexploded ordnance problem are universalized

49. Through the combined efforts of many actors, significant progress continues to be made towards creating a global environment free from the threat of landmines. The number of new mine victims is decreasing, stockpiles are being destroyed, mined areas are being cleared, and the production and transfer of antipersonnel landmines have all but stopped. Six new countries joined the Mine Ban Convention in the current reporting period, bringing the total number of States parties to 126. Representatives of UNMAS, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, UNICEF and UNDP have made presentations at several meetings designed to promote a better understanding of the provisions of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention held in Tunis, Bangkok, Kinshasa and Kabul (objective 6.1).

50. In resolution 56/219, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to study ways and means of increasing public awareness of the impact of the problem of landmines and other unexploded ordnance on affected countries and to present options to that effect to the Assembly. In response to that request, a public advocacy strategy is expected to be completed by the end of 2002. Member States will be consulted on proposals for future action by the General Assembly. The strategy will provide the United Nations system with a systematic approach to increasing public awareness of the impact of landmines on affected countries. In this context, UNICEF has developed an advocacy kit for its country and regional offices, which will also be available to United Nations agencies and NGOs. A CD-ROM has been issued entitled "Landmines: The World Takes Action", containing information about the role and contribution of the United Nations in mine action (objective 6.3).

51. The Secretary-General continued to address the mine and UXO issue when meeting with heads of State and Government and other interested parties. The Executive Director of UNICEF made statements to the Third Meeting of States

Parties and to the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (objective 6.4).

52. United Nations departments and agencies have regularly updated the Standing Committees of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. At the request of the co-chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, UNMAS has supported a consultative process to identify priority areas for the work of the Standing Committee.

53. The Department for Disarmament Affairs has been assisting with the implementation of article 7 of the Mine Ban Convention since 1999, and more specifically using the voluntary "form J" since September 2000. As of June 2002, 90 States parties had submitted their annual reports under article 7. In addition, 35 States parties have reported voluntarily on activities undertaken with respect to article 6, in particular on assistance provided for the care, rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration of mine victims (objective 6.1). The Department convened, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Third Meeting of States Parties in Managua, from 18 to 21 September 2001. The Managua meeting approved the creation of an Implementation Support Unit within GICHD to prepare and support the meetings of the Standing Committees and the Coordinating Committee, provide advice and assistance to the Coordinating Committee, and establish a documentation and resource database facility.

54. Anti-vehicle mines, shells, mortars and other explosive remnants of war often exact a greater human toll than do anti-personnel landmines, particularly among children. In December 2001, the Department for Disarmament Affairs convened the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Two open-ended groups of governmental experts were established to examine the issues of explosive remnants of war and mines other than anti-personnel mines. Similar meetings were convened in Geneva in May and July 2002; the final meeting will be held in December 2002. The groups of governmental experts will report back to the December 2002 meeting of High Contracting Parties. UNMAS and UNICEF experts have provided input from the perspective of mine-action field programmes (objective 6.2).

55. Partner organizations are also actively involved in advocacy and treaty implementation efforts. Since the adoption of the Mine Ban Convention, ICRC has worked continuously through its delegations in countries across the world to promote adherence to the Convention and to work with Governments to ensure its implementation. ICRC has also provided technical assistance and advice on the drafting and adoption of national legislation to implement the Convention and organized national and regional meetings to inform States on its provisions and requirements. In addition, it provided documentation, videos and, in many cases, its exhibition on the Convention (in English and Arabic) to be used as information tools. It furthermore prepared an information paper on the interpretation of article 2 of the Convention, which defines the term "anti-personnel mine". It also organized a regional expert meeting in Budapest on explosive remnants of war and actively participated in the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and its preparatory meetings. ICRC proposals for a new protocol to the Convention to deal with the problem of explosive remnants of war other than anti-personnel mines aroused widespread interest.

56. Similarly, ICBL has actively participated in events advocating for the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. In September 2001, it participated in the Third Meeting of States Parties in Managua, where it released its Landmine Monitor Report 2001, an unprecedented initiative by civil society to monitor the implementation of an international legal agreement. In addition, ICBL held campaign seminars in conjunction with the series of regional Landmine Monitor research meetings convened to prepare the Landmine Monitor Report 2002. The series of six regional meetings culminated in a Global Meeting of Landmine Monitor Researchers in Paris in April 2002, attended by over 90 researchers. Throughout the reporting period, ICBL ambassadors, staff and members undertook advocacy and awareness-building missions to a total of 62 countries worldwide. On the occasion of the anniversaries of the Mine Ban Convention (3 December marking the signature and 1 March the entry into force), ICBL held awareness-raising activities around the globe, focusing on the United States and its mine policy review and the mine-action situation in India and Pakistan. Finally, on 3 December 2001, ICBL launched two new youth advocacy tools, the Youth Campaign Kit and Youth web site, available at www.icbl.org/youth.

57. The Adopt-A-Minefield Campaign of the United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) involves civil society in the United Nations effort to remove landmines around the world. Through an agreement with UNDP, UNA-USA continues to raise resources for mine clearance. By the end of April 2002, $5.5 million had been raised towards mine clearance in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Mozambique and Viet Nam. The Adopt-A-Minefield Campaign also established three international partner campaigns in Canada, Sweden and the United Kingdom. UNOPS provides management services for the project. Interest in the campaign has been worldwide, including through the Adopt-A-Minefield web site (www.landmines.org).

IV. Financial aspects

58. In its resolution 55/120 of 6 December 2000, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to study how to secure a sounder financial basis for UNMAS and to present options to that effect to the General Assembly. The Assembly's request at its fifty-fifth session was reiterated the following year in its resolution 56/219, in which it invited the Secretary-General to continue to study how to secure a more sound financial basis for the Mine Action Service and to present options to that effect to the Assembly.

59. Following the adoption of resolution 55/120, the upgrading of the Mine Action Service to division status with its head to be appointed at the Director level was proposed by the Secretary-General in the context of his report on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/55/977). That recommendation was endorsed by the Special Committee (A/55/1024 and Corr.1) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/55/572/Add.1) and embodied in resolution 56/225 of 24 December 2001. Under rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, the statement of related programme budget implications arising from the recommendations in the draft of the resolution (A/C.5/55/46 and Corr.1 and Add.1) was submitted to the Fifth Committee through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It included the

establishment of two additional posts for the Mine Action Service under the support account for peacekeeping operations (a planning officer at the P-4 level and a programme officer at the P-3 level). Those recommendations were endorsed by the Fifth Committee in its related report (A/56/738) and confirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/241 of 24 December 2001.

60. In reviewing the current situation of UNMAS, the Secretary-General notes with appreciation the support of donors in response to the increased resource mobilization efforts during 2001 and 2002. This, together with additional funding from the support account for peacekeeping operations, has placed UNMAS in a stronger financial situation, and the Secretary-General is confident that UNMAS will be in a position to carry out the programme of work for the immediate future. In these circumstances, the Secretary-General believes that the current arrangement for the financing of the activities of the Mine Action Service should continue to apply and be kept under review.

V. Conclusions, recommendations and proposed actions

61. **The period under review represents the first year of implementation of the five-year Mine Action Strategy submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.[2] The experience of the past year has demonstrated the value of having a specific road map, where progress can be measured against clear objectives. This experience has also allowed for a more systematic approach in the organization of work plans of mine-action organizations within the United Nations and has led to greater coherence across the whole spectrum of mine-action activities.**

62. **Mine action consists of two complementary sets of activities: firstly, activities intended to eliminate the use of landmines in the future, and secondly, the work of dealing with the impact of the mines already laid, either by mine-risk education, minefield survey and marking, mine clearance, or a combination of all three. The past year has highlighted a number of important lessons relating to this second set of activities.**

63. **During the reporting period, the importance of prioritizing clearance work, in particular, and of achieving the most cost-effective solutions has been reasserted. The value to mine-affected countries of undertaking a Landmine Impact Survey, tailored to its specific needs, is now widely recognized. The development of a national mine-action strategy and plan becomes an objective, and not a subjective exercise, once such a survey has been completed and its results analysed.**

64. **It is necessary to build further on the work started by UNDP and GICHD on the cost benefits of mine action. While the social benefits of mine clearance are unquestioned, simple cost-benefit analysis has been shown, in a number of contexts, to be a practical way of measuring the purely economic benefits of clearing mines. This work needs to be pursued.**

65. **International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) have been widely accepted as an excellent basis for the development of national standards and guidelines. Nevertheless, there remain concerns in some quarters that IMAS place constraints on the speed of mine-clearance operations. Further active outreach,**

and a willingness to review specific standards, will be priorities for the coming year. In this context, the urgency of making available translations of relevant IMAS is fully recognized.

66. **It is evident that mine action does not happen in isolation. Mine-action organizations need to reach out and integrate their activities into humanitarian and development programmes. Several steps in this direction have been made in the past year and more efforts are needed to build partnerships with relevant organizations, including the World Bank and other development lending institutions.**

67. **It should be noted that, in a number of countries, the planned transition of mine-action activities to national responsibility has been hampered by the inability of some donors to continue funding programmes after such a transfer, while in many cases the national Governments have been unable to absorb the costs. Therefore, the question of transition strategies requires further attention.**

Notes

[1] The study is entitled "User Requirements for Mine Action Information Requirements" and is available at www.mineaction.org.

[2] A/56/448/Add.1.